

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A process of treating sea algae and/or halophytes, comprising soaking the sea algae/halophytes in an aqueous solution containing a small amount of acid for a sufficient length of time to substantially reduce mineral content of the sea algae/halophyte, the mineral content of the sea algae/halophyte being expressed on the basis of the total ash content of the sea algae/halophyte in a dry state.
2. The process of Claim 1, wherein the sea algae/halophyte is used in dried state.
3. The sea algae/halophyte of Claim 1, wherein the sea algae/halophyte is used in wet state.
4. The process of Claim 1, wherein the sea algae/halophyte is converted into smaller pieces after the soaking step.
5. The process of Claim 1, wherein the sea algae/halophyte used in the soaking process has an initial total ash content of about 25 to about 40 weight percent, based on the initial dry weight of the sea algae.
6. The process of Claim 1, wherein the soaking of the sea algae/halophyte is conducted for a minimum of 3 hours.
7. The process of Claim 1, wherein the soaking of the sea algae/halophyte is conducted for 5 to 12 hours.
8. The process of Claim 1, wherein the soaking of the sea algae/halophyte is conducted at ambient temperature.

9. The process of Claim 1, wherein sufficient acid is present to provide a pH in the aqueous solution containing the sea algae/halophyte of 2.5 to 3.5.
10. The process of Claim 1, wherein the acid is an inorganic acid.
11. The process of Claim 1, wherein the acid is hydrochloric acid or sulfuric acid.
12. The process of Claim 1, wherein the acid is an organic acid.
13. The process of Claim 1, wherein the sea algae/halophyte, dry basis, used in the soaking step has an initial total ash content of about 25 to about 40 weight percent, and the ash content of the sea algae is reduced to about 5 to about 15 weight percent, based on the dry weight of the acid-treated sea algae/halophyte.
14. The process of Claim 1, wherein the sea algae is a seaweed.
15. The process of claim 1, wherein the treated sea algae/halophyte is separated from the aqueous solution that contains dissolved mineral removed from the sea algae/halophyte.
16. The process of Claim 15, wherein the dissolved mineral is separated from the aqueous solution containing the dissolved mineral by drying or precipitation of the aqueous solution.
17. The process of Claim 15, wherein the separated sea algae/halophyte is dried and reduced in size.
18. The sea algae/halophyte produced by the process of Claim 1.

19. A process comprising utilizing the sea algae/halophyte prepared by the process of Claim 17 as a food or feed ingredient.
20. A feed or fodder that includes the sea algae/halophyte prepared by the process of Claim 1.